

Gov. Lingle releases \$100,000 for ferry system improvements

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KAUNAKAKAI – Gov. Linda Lingle has released \$100,000 for commuter ferry system improvements at Kaunakakai Harbor, according to a news release from the Governor’s Office.

The money will pay for design of a new terminal facility at the harbor for the Molokai-to-Maui ferry. The project includes a comfort station, an administrative office, parking, security fencing and barriers and infrastructure for utilities.

The \$3.5 million project is a joint effort by the state departments of Transportation and Land and Natural Resources.

Transportation Director Rod Haraga said the terminal facility is part of an overall plan to upgrade harbor facilities.

“The Molokai-Maui ferry system is an important link for residents who commute to work and visit family between the two islands, as well as for visitors who want to explore these islands,” Haraga said.

The improved harbor facilities also will benefit boaters who use the adjacent small boat harbor, said Peter Young, director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Eighty percent of the project, or \$2.8 million, will be covered by federal funds. The state’s portion of funding will come from the harbors special fund.

The project’s design stage is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Construction is scheduled to be finished in the fall of 2006.

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